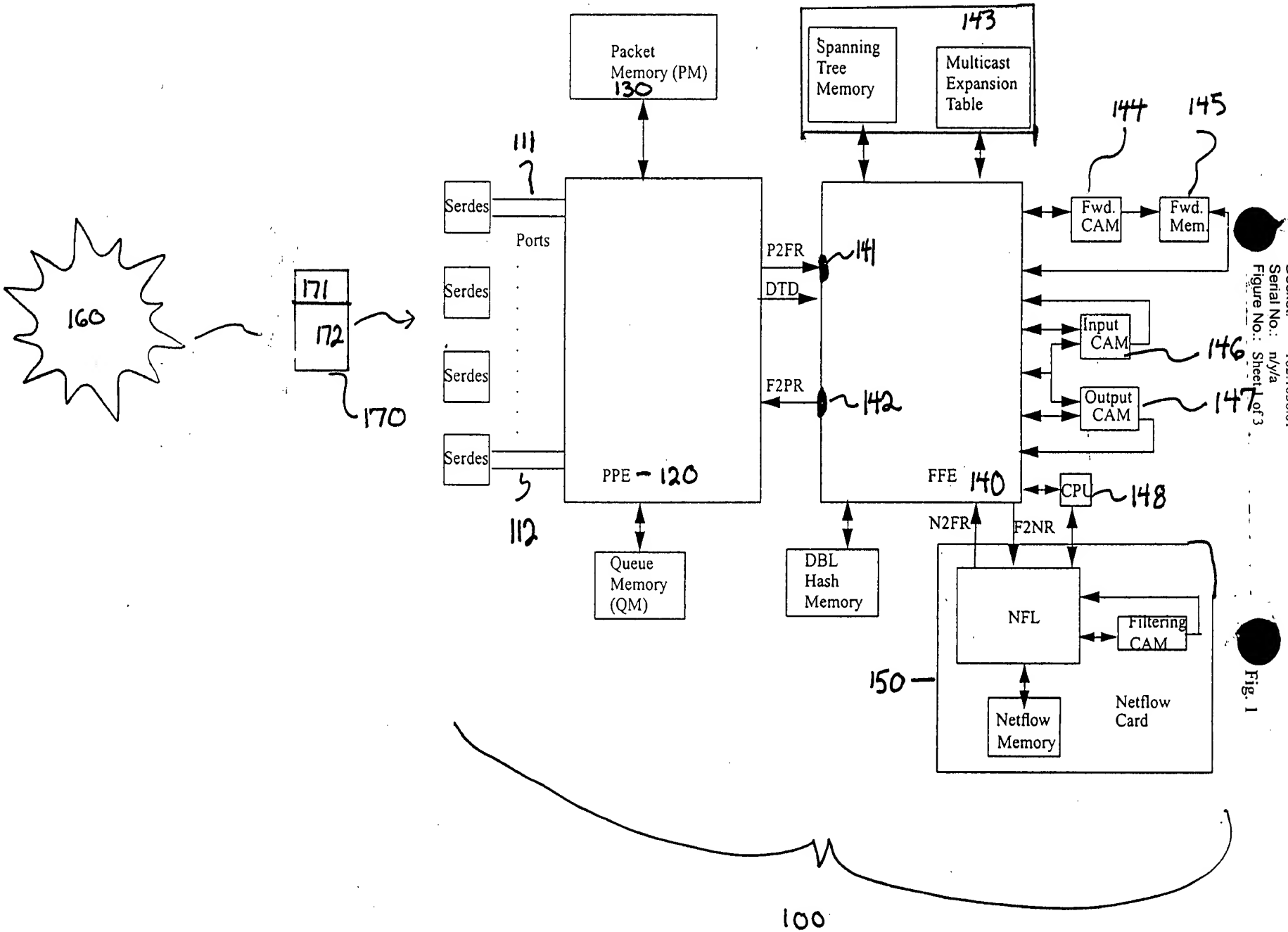

Fig. 1

Title: Packet Processing Engine Architecture
Inventor: Andreas V. Bechtolsheim
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Serial No.: n/y/a
Figure No.: Sheet 1 of 3

Fig. 2

210
The PPE 120 is ready to receive input packets 170 at the input interfaces 111.

211
The PPE 120 receives an input packet 170 at one of the input interfaces 111.

212
The PPE 120 parses the packet 170 to distinguish a packet header from a remainder of the packet and to determine those portions of the packet header that are relevant to packet routing.

213
The PPE 120 forwards packet header information 171 for the packet 170 to the FFE 140. As part of this step, the FFE 140 receives packet header information 171 for the packet 170 from the PPE 120.

214
The FFE 140 sends packet routing information 173 for the packet 170 to the PPE 120

215
The PPE 120 associates the packet routing information 173 received from the FFE 140 with the packet 170, using the packet index 174.

216
The PPE 120 rewrites the packet 170 using the packet routing information 173 and a set of rewrite rules for the packet 170. As noted above, rewrite operations include adjusting a hop count for the packet, determining a new CRC, and possibly other protocol reformatting operations.

217
The PPE 120 sends the packets 170 to the output interface 112 indicated by the packet routing information 173.

218
The PPE 120 has sent the packet 170 to a designated output interface 112.

Fig. 3